



"We tell it as it is"

SKYLOOK

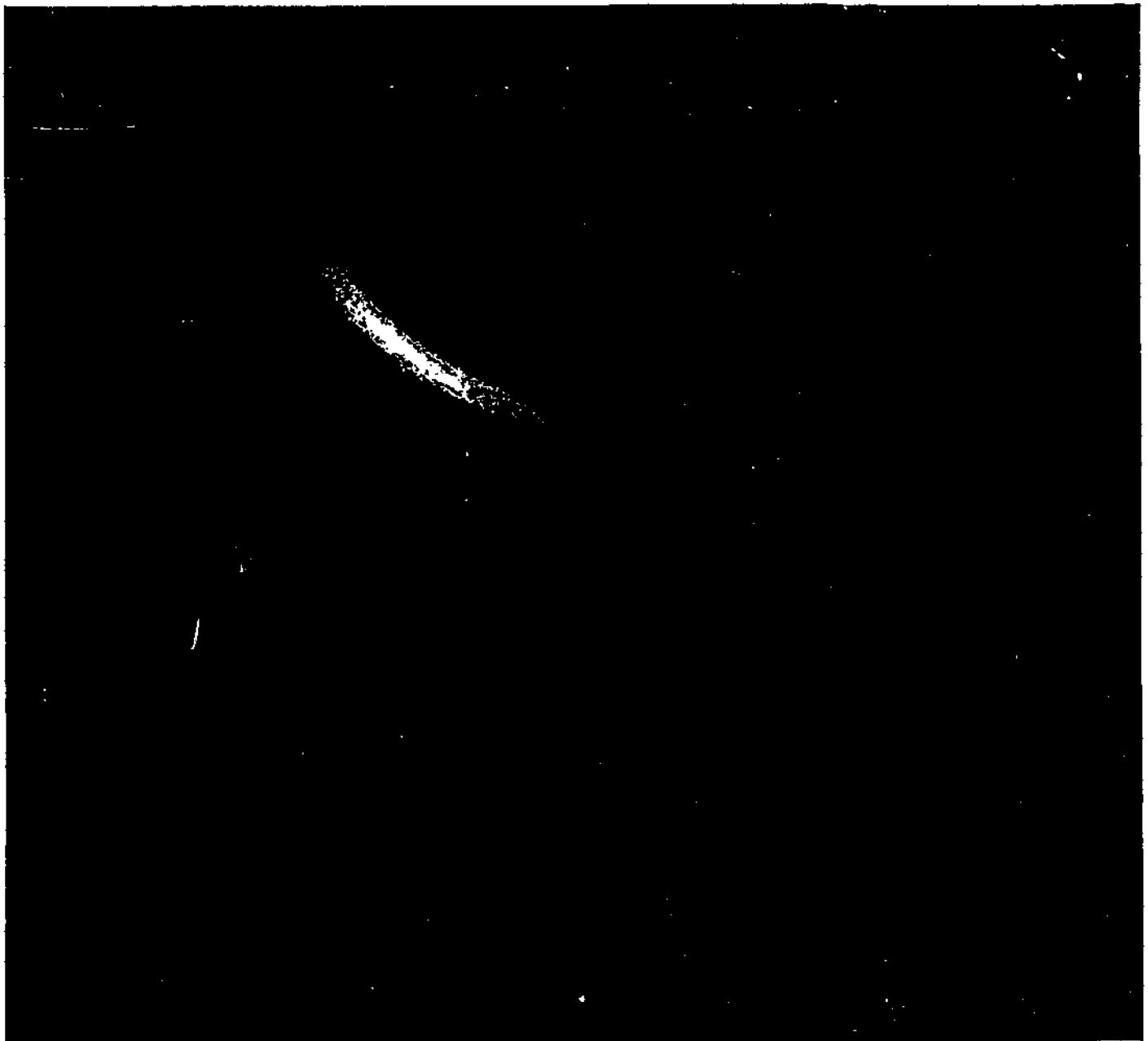
\$1.00

Number 97

The UFO Monthly

December, 1975

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.



This photo of an unidentified light is one of two allegedly taken by a deputy sheriff in Grant County, Wisconsin, during a series of reported sightings. (See page 7)

Founded 1967

SKYLOOK

The UFO Monthly
26 Edgewood Drive
Quincy, Illinois 62301

Dwight Connelly
Editor

Carolyn Connelly
Business Manager

Walter H. Andrus
Director of MUFON

Ted Bloecher
Humanoid/Occupant Cases

Joseph M. Brill

The Rev. Dr. Barry Downing
Religion and UFOs

Ann Druffel

Lucius Farish
Books, Periodicals, History

Marjorie Fish
Extraterrestrial Life

Stan Gordon
Creatures & UFO's

Gary Graber
Artist

Richard Hall
Commentator

Mark Herbstritt
Astronomy

Rosetta Holmes
Promotion/Publicity

Bob Kirkpatrick
West Coast Coordinator

Ted Phillips
UFO Landing Traces

David A. Schroth
St. Louis/Mass Media

John F. Schuessler
UFO Propulsion

Norma E. Short
Editor-Publisher Emeritus

Editor's Column

A tentative meeting which the Center for UFO Studies is attempting to set up in April, reportedly in an effort to assess "the state of UFO research," has had some very undesirable side effects.

The basic problem is a list of 138 persons selected for what Dr. J. Allen Hynek now says is only the first of what is hoped to be a series of such meetings for qualified persons.

What are the criteria laid down by Dr. Hynek for participation?

Says Dr. Hynek, the meeting is to be "attended only by persons with an established record of serious work conducted with an open minded scientific attitude. To be more explicit, this should include only those who have seriously investigated and reported on many UFO cases in the field, and those who have written seriously on the subject, again, in an unprejudiced manner."

For those selected, there must be at least a temporary feeling of honor.

For those omitted from the magic list there is bound to be disappointment and hurt feelings. Most people who investigate and write about UFOs like to feel that they are serious and unprejudiced—yet many "regulars" have been left off the list.

While Dr. Hynek did leave the door open a bit for additions to his initial list, he said that "in making such suggestions I would ask that you hold firmly in mind the strict criteria for inclusion, i.e. that attendees have a demonstrated track record." The implication and expectation is that the person with a demonstrated track record would already be known—and included. Besides, no one wants to be a second round choice.

The actual criteria used by Dr. Hynek remains a mystery when one

looks at the strange mixture of backgrounds and levels of expertise of those on the list.

Since sending out the list, Dr. Hynek has informed me that he has had some second thoughts concerning who should have been included and excluded.

Both the list and the meeting were meant to be secret, but the list and other information was sent to all 138 persons on the invitation list.

It is unbelievably naive for Dr. Hynek to believe that he can send out 138 letters and expect either the meeting or the list of participants to remain secret, as he requested. Already, copies of his letter are being Xeroxed and passed around. It is, quite naturally, big news when the best-known name in UFOs selects 138 individuals for his personal, secret UFO conference.

What can we in the field learn from this?

First, if a select group of scientists or investigators or whatever are to be brought together, more care should be exercised in drawing up the list of participants.

Secondly, it is quite possible to have a private meeting without attempting to make it secret. In a field where investigators and organizations are almost paranoid in their suspicions of each other, attempted secrecy only makes matters worse.

Perhaps a meeting to ascertain "the state of UFO research" is not needed. Possibly the question has already been answered. The state of UFO research is obviously in a mess when the best-known person in the field cannot come up with a reasonable list of participants to discuss the question.

The contents of SKYLOOK are determined by the editor and staff, and do not necessarily represent the official judgment of MUFON. Opinions of contributors are their own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the staff, or MUFON.

SKYLOOK THE UFO MONTHLY is published monthly by Dwight Connelly, 26 Edgewood Drive, Quincy, IL 62301 USA. Subscription Rates: \$8.00 per year in U.S.; \$9.00 per year foreign; single copy, 75 cents. Advertising rates: \$5.00 per column inch. All ads subject to approval of the publisher.

Copyright 1975 by SKYLOOK THE UFO MONTHLY, 26 Edgewood Drive, Quincy, IL 62301. Permission is hereby granted to quote from this issue of this magazine, provided not more than 200 words are quoted from any one article, provided that the author of the article is given credit, and provided that the statement "Copyright 1975 by SKYLOOK THE UFO MONTHLY, 26 Edgewood Drive, Quincy, IL" is included.

Second Class Postage paid at Quincy, IL 62301.

Travis Walton

Alleged Arizona abduction case studied

DATE: Nov. 5, 1975 (6:15 p.m.)

LOCATION: Turkey Springs area, Sitgreaves-Apache National Forest, 10½ miles south of Heber, Arizona.

WITNESSES: Seven forestry workers.

TYPE OF CASE: lighted object, light beam, abduction.

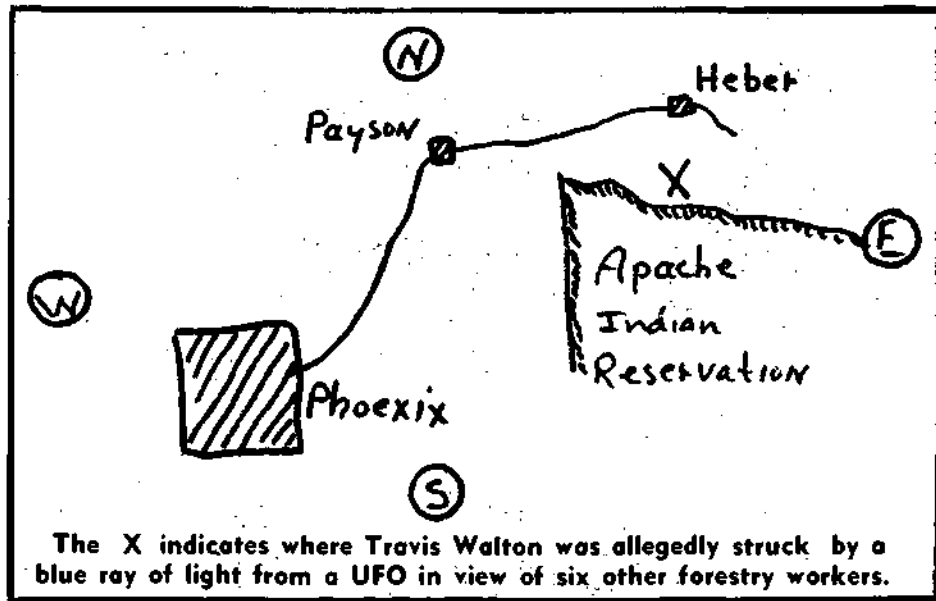
CONDITIONS: clear sky, excellent visibility, no unusual weather conditions, temperature of 50 degrees, relative humidity of 12%, dusk, moon not visible, sun setting in west, Jupiter visible.

The alleged sighting of a UFO by seven forestry workers and the claimed abduction of one of them, Travis Walton, 22, from a national forest near Heber, AZ, on Nov. 5 is accepted as factual by some UFO researchers, but others are somewhat skeptical.

Early in the case, Bill Spaulding of MUFON and Ground Saucer Watch was quoted as saying, "We found some interesting things up there. If it is a hoax it's one of the best I've ever seen." Later, however, Spaulding indicated that lack of cooperation from Walton and other factors caused him to question at least some aspects of the case.

Ray Jordan, investigator for NICAP, was quoted in the Nov. 11 ARIZONA REPUBLIC as saying, "I haven't found anything in their stories to indicate a hoax. The young men I've interviewed so far are all visibly shaken by the experience. I'm inclined to believe they're telling the truth."

Coral Lorenzen of APRO, who is reportedly preparing another book on humanoids, is quoted by the Chicago Tribune as saying, "From the evidence at hand we don't see how any hoax could have been perpetrated. We are convinced that something quite bizarre happened to Travis." She added that details provided by Walton under hypnosis "match unpublished descriptions we have received from other persons who have had similar experiences."



The Sighting

According to the Knight News Wire, Walton and six fellow forestry workers were traveling in a double cab truck (four in the back seat, three in the front seat) when they first saw the object. Michael Rogers, 28, foreman of the group, is quoted as saying that they "spotted this thing in a clearing about 25 yards from the road. It looked like two pie pans, one upside down, hovering about 15 feet above the ground."

Rogers reportedly said that the object "was about 15 feet in diameter, about 8 feet high, and it had some markings, but they were too complicated to describe. It was glowing all over—a yellowish white. It was twilight when we saw it, and it seemed to light up the area. I'd never seen anything like it before." Another of the witnesses, Duane Smith, 19, is quoted as saying that the object was a bright silver and seemed to glow.

Rogers said Walton jumped from the truck and ran toward the UFO when a bluish light shot from the UFO and Walton fell. At that point, said Rogers, "We all panicked and drove off. When we came back about 15 minutes later, Travis was gone and there was no sign of the UFO."

Spaulding's Nov. 13 preliminary report of the incident included descriptions similar to those quoted by the Knight News Service. In Spaulding's report, which is based on information from Walton and all six witnesses, the object is described as a solid metallic disc which was brighter than the moon or brightest star, hovering 20-22 feet above the ground, illuminated as brilliant white—then a blue flash. Sound coming from the object was described as "electrical—high and low pitch."

Spaulding's report notes that the object was not observed moving during the sighting, did not change shape, did not change coloring (except for the blue light), did not leave vapor or smoke, did not disappear and reappear, did not rotate, did not flutter or vibrate, but did wobble. No landing was observed by the witnesses.

The observers were traveling due west at 3-5 mph when the object was observed about 90-100 feet to the north, hovering over a wood pile. It is not known whether there were aircraft in the vicinity at the time of the sighting.

The blue flash which purportedly hit Walton was 18-24 inches wide, ac-



Sketch by Duane Smith, one of the witnesses to the UFO sighting.

According to the witnesses who allegedly saw it. (Smith is quoted in one newspaper as saying he did not actually see the blue light, but only heard one of the others say, "It got him.") Walton was reportedly 10-15 feet short of being under the object when hit by the blue beam of light. One of the witnesses, Kenneth Peterson, 25, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that the light beam "kind of lifted him up off the ground. His arms were outstretched and he was knocked to the ground."

The Disappearance

The six forestry workers reportedly could not find Walton when they returned to the scene of the sighting after overcoming their initial fears. Navajo County Sheriff Marlin Gillespie was notified, and a ground search, aided by a helicopter, was conducted without Walton being located.

All six of the witnesses to Walton's disappearance voluntarily took lie

detector (polygraph) tests conducted by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. It indicated that five of the witnesses (Rogers, Smith, Steve Pierce, John Goulette, and Peterson) were telling the truth, according to Sheriff Gillespie. The test on the sixth witness (Allen Dalis, 21) was termed inconclusive because the witness was extremely agitated.

The polygraph operator has been quoted in the ARIZONA REPUBLIC as saying that the lie detector is 97 percent accurate and that it is impossible for that many people to be lying.

Undersheriff Kenneth Coplan noted, however, that Walton and the other forestry workers had seen the Oct. 20 NBC special, "The UFO Incident" which described Betty and Barney Hill being taken aboard a UFO, and suggested that some aspects of the two cases were similar.

Sheriff Gillespie initially said that

the witnesses were consistent in their accounts of the experience, and that he was convinced that they had not used intoxicants or drugs on the night of the alleged sighting.

Mrs. Lorenzen said the witnesses were asked to draw pictures of the craft independently "and all the pictures match."

Five days after the apparent abduction, and prior to the return of Walton, his mother, Mrs. Mary Kellett, was quoted by another son, Duane, as saying that she believed her son was taken on board the craft and that further searching for her son would be pointless. Mrs. Kellett reportedly had a reputation in Snowflake, AZ, where she resides, as an outspoken believer in UFO's.

The Reappearance

Travis Walton reappeared on Nov. 10, five days after the initial sighting. The Arizona Republic reported that Travis called his brother-in-law, Grant Neff, about midnight on Nov. 10 from a phone booth, according to Duane's wife Carol. Travis reportedly told Neff that he had been returned to Earth outside of Heber and said, "I need help and I'm hurting. Get Duane down here."

Neff reportedly then contacted Duane, who was staying with his mother, Mrs. Kellett. Neff and Duane then went to pick up Travis.

Travis reportedly looked exhausted, was confused, and had a heavy growth of beard when he was found in the phone booth. He complained of "tremendous pain" in the chest and head, attributing this to tests performed on him while he was on board the UFO.

Duane and Carol drove Travis to their home in Glendale, where Travis ate some cottage cheese, but then said he felt ill. Travis reportedly expressed surprise when told he had been missing for five days, saying he had been conscious only about two hours of the time he had been gone.

Duane said, according to the Arizona Republic, that he took Travis to a private hospital in Tucson, where Travis was given a thorough physical exam, including a brain wave test, a blood test, and urinalysis. The results of these tests are apparently not available.

Carol Walton reported that Travis had a pin-prick wound on his arm



Travis Walton
before his alleged
experience with
a UFO.

resembling the mark left by an injection, but Duane said Carol was mistaken and that Travis had no marks of any kind on his body. Duane said Travis was in good health.

Undersheriff Coplan reported on Nov. 12 that Sheriff Gillespie had talked with Travis at an undisclosed location in Phoenix and that Travis had told the sheriff that he had been examined by a doctor, but had not entered a hospital as previously reported. Sheriff Gillespie also reported that Travis had told him he did not remember the blue light which reportedly came from the UFO, and that he thought he had been hit on the head at the time of the alleged abduction.

Aboard a UFO?

Travis reportedly told Sheriff Gillespie that he had awakened on an examination table aboard the UFO, and that he was checked by three weird-looking beings. According to an Associated Press story, Duane had quoted Travis as saying he had seen "two humanoids and others who were

not human" aboard the craft.

Duane is quoted in the Nov. 12 **Phoenix Gazette** as saying that Travis "encountered two kinds of creatures, one human, one almost human. He saw four different kinds of craft."

The **Chicago Tribune** quoted Travis as saying he had been examined by hairless beings in tight-fitting blue clothing in a white room. The Knight News Service quoted Travis as saying "several" strange-looking creatures examined him.

Deputy Sheriff Ken Nolan, who obtained his information from Sheriff Gillespie, gave this version to **The Arizona Republic**: Travis was examined on board the UFO by strange-looking occupants in what appeared to be a hospital. The people who examined him were dressed in tight-fitting blue coveralls. They had no visible hair. Travis tried unsuccessfully to converse with the occupants, but the occupants made no sound. When he tried to get up the occupants tried to hold him down and he "took

a swing" at one of them. The creatures then left the room.

Walton then got up, according to Nolan, and went into another room which contained a chair. He sat in the chair and pushed buttons on the arms of the chair. The ceiling slid back and he could see stars going by. A creature entered the room wearing a helmet that looked like an upside down fish bowl. The occupant smiled, but said nothing, escorting him by the arm to a large auditorium-like room where he saw a spacecraft parked.

A device like an oxygen mask was then placed on Travis' face by people who had long hair, according to Nolan, and the next thing Travis remembered was lying on the pavement ¼ mile from Heber on the Payson-Heber highway.

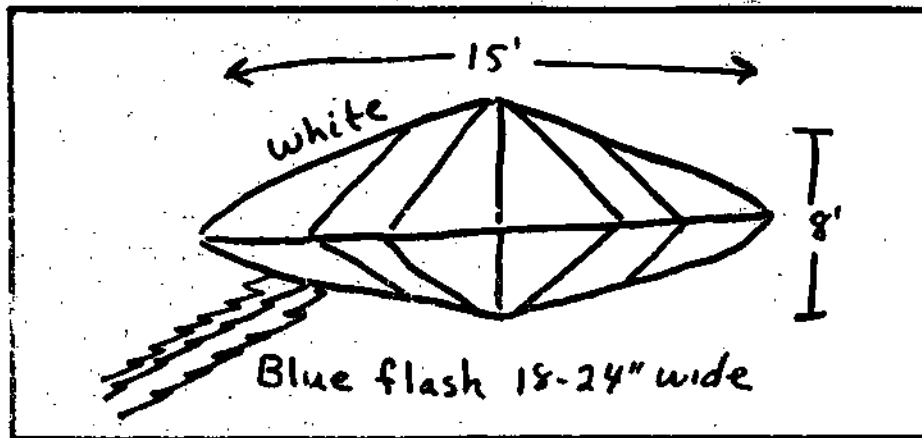
Travis reportedly said a device which had been placed on his chest during the examination was knocked to the floor when he struggled to get up.

Sheriff Gillespie reportedly came away from his interview with Travis "less convinced than before" that the story was authentic. Undersheriff Coplan said he "more than ever" believes the abduction is a hoax. "It's just too much to buy," said Coplan. Famed psychic Peter Hurkos was quoted in the **Phoenix Gazette** as saying, "It's a hoax. I believe there are unidentified flying objects; in fact, the government is aware of these. But this one is a hoax. Someone's fantasy."

The Investigation

Spaulding's Ground Saucer Watch personnel interviewed Travis on Nov. 11 at GSW headquarters for GSW and MUFON and reportedly found some discrepancies in the story. Spaulding said Duane took his brother away from GSW and "accused us of being negative after we questioned him about a couple of holes in the story. In the first place, this is not the way abduction victims go about things. We have many studies of past abductions and this doesn't follow."

Spaulding, who found "high residual magnetism" at the location of the alleged sighting, was quoted in the Nov. 12 **Phoenix Gazette** as saying he believed the seven witnesses did see a UFO. He said, however, that "there are some questions related to the so-



called abduction."

Duane reacted sharply to Spaulding's doubts, calling Spaulding a publicity seeker. A scheduled interview of Travis by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, of the Center for UFO Studies, arranged by Spaulding, was cancelled BY THE WALTONS, reportedly because Travis was "not ready yet." Travis also failed to show for a police polygraph test scheduled for Nov. 14.

However, investigators and consultants from APRO who examined Travis are quoted by the Knight News Service as saying they are convinced the story is not a hoax. An APRO psychiatrist, Dr. Gene Rosenbaum, says he and others performed "a comprehensive battery of psychiatric and medical exams" on Travis. Dr. Rosenbaum said in a press release that "our conclusion, which was absolute, is that this young man is not lying, that

there is no collusion involved. The results of psychiatric tests and hypnosis show he really believes these things, that he is not lying." Dr. James Harder, APRO's research director from the University of California, who has experience in hypnosis, also examined Travis.

According to Rosenbaum, urinalysis and blood tests indicated that Travis was not a drug user.

Characters

Travis and Duane Walton were outspoken believers in UFOs prior to the sighting, as was their mother, Mrs. Kellett. Duane is quoted in the Nov. 12 *Arizona Republic* as saying that in the past 12 years he and Travis have seen 12 to 14 UFOs and that "five or six were just as definite as anything you could imagine."

Duane said that he and Travis had talked a number of times about UFOs

and once formed a pact that if one of them was taken aboard a UFO that he would try to return for the other. Duane said, However, that there had been no contact of any kind between him and Travis while Travis was on board the UFO.

Duane, who shoes horses and attends college, reportedly told an *Arizona Republic* reporter just prior to Travis' reappearance that he was not concerned about the fate of his brother. "He's having the experience of a lifetime," said Duane, who added that his mother was also convinced Travis had been taken aboard a UFO. At one point, however, Duane criticized one of the UFO investigators for saying, prior to Travis' reappearance, that abductions usually do not last very long. "That sure didn't help my mother any," said Duane.

Also prior to the reappearance of Travis, Deputy Glen Flake expressed doubts concerning the story. "Our general feeling is that they're making up a big story," said Flake, noting that the six witnesses had discussed UFOs with Travis earlier, and that Travis had reportedly expressed a desire "to make contact" with a craft.

Conclusions

Because of inconsistent factors, it is impossible to determine whether the case is authentic or a hoax. If additional information on this case becomes available it will be printed in SKYLOOK.

Arizona patrol officer reports EM effects

By William H. Spaulding
Director, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW)
Western Division

At 10:23 p.m. on Aug. 17, 1975, a Joint Use Area Patrol officer in Kearns Canyon, AZ, (60 miles north of Holbrook) observed a brilliant white light, from behind his patrol vehicle, that completely enveloped his immediate area. Immediately the witness slowed his vehicle and turned to see a red and green rotating light on an obscured dark shape. The bright white spot light was also visible.

Getting out of the patrol van, all three lights went out and there was total darkness. The officer, who wishes anonymity, continued on his

patrol.

After driving for 3 to 4 minutes, his vehicle, a 1970 Ford Bronco, experienced total EME (electro magnetic effects). The patrol van lost its lights, engine and even the communications. The loss of all the Bronco's electrical systems lasted approximately thirty to forty seconds.

Then suddenly the vehicle's lights came on and the engine started. The officer reported the experience to headquarters, which is part of the official police record.

This was not the only UFO encounter that evening. Approximately thirty miles to the north, another patrol spotted six unidentified flying objects exactly 25 minutes after the EME en-

counter. Three officers reported two similar appearing objects, with rotating red and green lights and a bright white spot light in the middle.

The UFOs were transversing at a low altitude, and streaked away within a few minutes. Then suddenly four additional objects were sighted hovering in a rectangular formation, separated by 12 to 15 celestial degrees. The objects, flashing red, green and white, were flying at 5000 feet and were visible in the direction of the initial EME encounter.

Later that evening in Tuba City, AZ additional UFOs were reported by both concerned citizens and police officers. Two separate incidents involved brilliant colored objects trav-

eling at tremendous speeds.

Investigations

GSW was initially contacted by the 26th Air Division of NORAD regarding the sighting, then the officers from Keams Canyon. Due to the distance, 300 miles one way, a compounded problem of half of our Arizona FI's were on vacation and the numerous other UFO sightings occurring in the southwest, the investigation was not conducted until Aug. 23, 1975.

A four-member team headed by David Bates, conducted a five-hour investigation which included interviewing the prime witnesses, surveying the vehicle with magnometers and gauss equipment, and collecting soil samples by a suspect GM (ground marking) area.

The EME survey report reveals higher residual magnetic readings near the back and roof of the Bronco, supporting strongly the officer's report. Our FI's completely checked the engine and its supporting electrical system and found no evidence of burnt wires, loose connections, nor a single "failed" or faulty component. The EME experienced could not be attributed to a normal breakdown.

The GM area revealed strange-appearing burnt scrub/trees. A control and test sample was taken and is currently being analyzed by an independent laboratory. The results are pending.

The witnesses were extremely articulate and considered trained observers. Additionally they were very knowledgeable of the area.

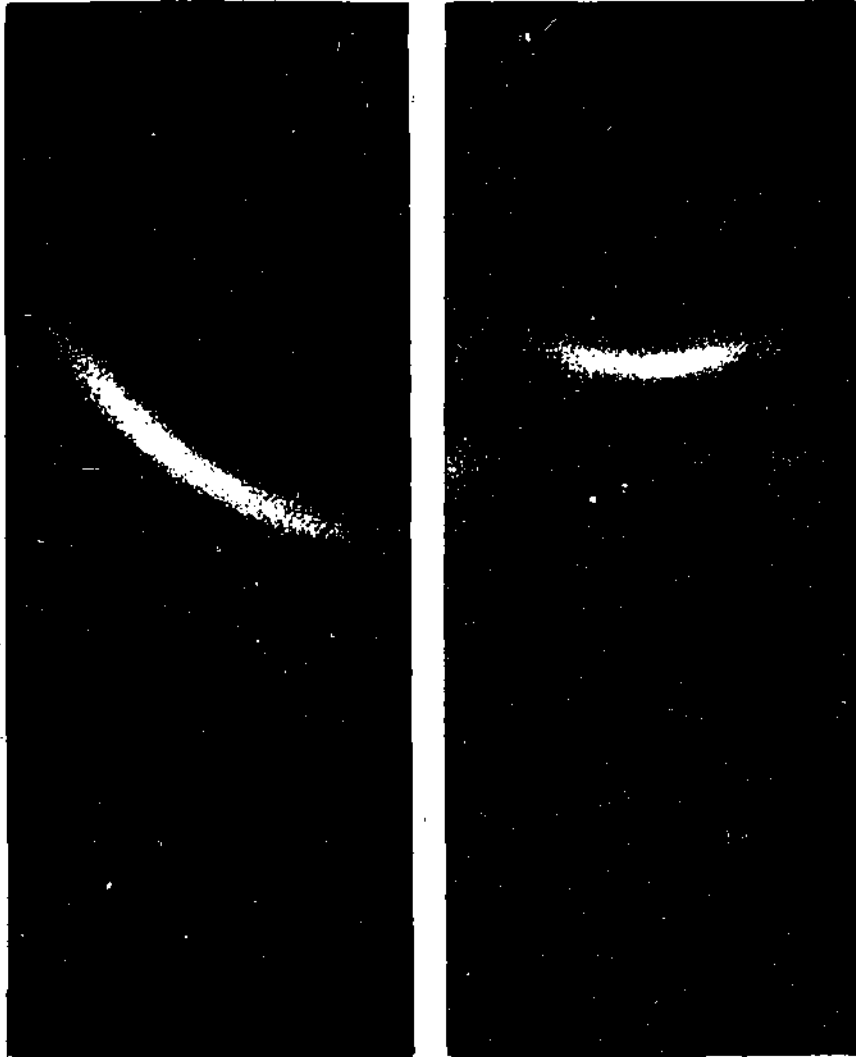
Results

A complete check was made with the AFB's: Luke in Arizona and Holoman in New Mexico. They both reported to GSW and the Joint Use Area Patrol that no aircraft or special aerial missions were in progress that evening.

The profile of the sightings does not lend itself to natural or celestial phenomena. Additionally ruled out were weather balloons, birds, space decay, objects, or any White Sands rocket launchings.

GSW fully believes all the officers experienced bonafied UFO sightings, and as our testing data is processed it is expected that this will substantiate this belief.

Wisconsin sightings reported



These photos were reportedly taken by a sheriff's deputy near Fennimore, WI, on Nov. 4, 1975. The photos are allegedly of a large bright light seen in the sky at the west edge of the city. Lee Mehcz, an investigator for the Center for UFO Studies, is quoted as saying that the photos show a "typical UFO flying pattern, banking from side to side." However, the photos have not yet been analyzed.

This reported sighting was one of several in Grant County, WI. Farmer Harold Posten of Patch Grove reported a "ball of fire" hovering on top of a hill, lighting up an entire valley about 8 p.m. on Nov. 6. Following this report, other alleged witnesses said they had also seen unidentifiable lights near Posten's farm.

On the morning of Nov. 4 a 500-pound Holstein was found near Patch Grove with its left ear and tongue cut off by a sharp instrument. A veterinarian said the cow had died of pneumonia and "the cuts were probably made after death, because there wasn't much blood around it." The vet said something may have frightened the cow and caused it to run "an it developed emphysema in its lung." Although cattle mutilations and UFO sightings are sometimes reported in the same general areas and in the same general time periods, most UFO investigators feel at this time that no definite connection has been established.



California report

Police and UFOs

NOTE: In this issue, SKYLOOK begins a continuing column from Southern California. The authors, both MUFON investigators and members of SKYNET, a UFO filter-and-tracking system, are in touch with many other MUFON personnel in that area. The sheer volume of sighting reports from California provides a rich field for correlative reporting.



Ann Druffel has been actively engaged in UFO research and field investigation for eighteen years. Her specialization is correlative research from varied sources. She has been Project Co-ordinator of SKYNET since its beginnings in 1965.

Richard Zimmerman is an editor and free-lance writer. He has researched UFOs for the past five years. Specializing in correlative material, at present he is studying possible patterns in UFO sightings in the Los Angeles Basin.

By Ann Druffel

When the Air Force slammed shut the doors of Project Blue Book in December, 1969, it advised the public to report UFO sightings to their local police. Although Blue Book's demise was no great loss to the field, researchers groaned inwardly at the advice to "report to the police."

Experienced UFO investigators were aware that local law enforcement officials, in general, had neither the time nor the ability to separate UFO "wheat" from "chaff."

Police and UFOs

For several years following the 1969 AF suggestion, UFO witnesses tried repeatedly to refer their sightings to their local police and sheriff

stations. Their reports were invariably met with ridicule or disinterest. It was not until the organization of Dr. J. Allen Hynek's CUFOS that police departments throughout the country became fully aware of ways in which sighting reports could be effectively handled.

Even before CUFOS' entry into the research field, individual policemen throughout Southern California, and in other states, had begun tentative cooperation with local UFO groups. An effective link was set up with MUFON's Southern California tracking arm, SKYNET, on January 28, 1974. It linked the Van Nuys Police Emergency Board, which covers the vast San Fernando Valley, with trained MUFON investigative personnel.

The San Fernando Valley, part of Los Angeles proper, is a giant, heavily-settled complex covering more than 250 square miles. Its law enforcement needs are mainly served by the Los Angeles Police Department. Through the instigation of Officer Maurice Allen of LAPD, SKYNET became the recipient of UFO reports direct from Valley citizens.

Rick Zimmerman, in particular, has given of his energy and talents in receiving this influx of calls. Researchers desiring to collect data in this manner should be warned that the volume of reports, especially in the early A.M., can try the patience of the most avid investigator!

A New Attitude

Contrasting this cooperative police attitude with former days, we can see a vast difference. During an important and intriguing series of events on Feb. 5-6, 1960, several members of the LAPD were witnesses to a dramatic sighting. Although individual policemen willingly gave statements to veteran researchers Idabel Epperson and Marilyn Epperson, at police headquarters they were met

with an official cold and cautious attitude. Nowadays the opposite situation exists. Individual LAPD helicopter pilots have indicated that puzzling, long-lived sightings might be checked out by their surveillance craft.

Some policemen, too, have come forward in recent months to report personal sightings to MUFON. One particular case concerned Jack Thompson, member of the LAPD, and Mrs. Thompson.

In the summer of 1968, date uncertain, the couple were traveling north along Highway 99 on their way to a fishing trip in Oregon. About midnight they passed through the tiny Northern California community of Ripon, about 75 miles southeast of San Francisco. Three bright white lights were viewed pacing their camper, periodically appearing and disappearing. Presently only one light was in view. It suddenly "turned around" and headed toward them. A huge shape loomed into view, sending a steady, bluish-green beam toward the ground.

The off-duty policeman leaped from his camper as the lighted object continued toward them. Deliberately, with an odd, whistling sound, a huge, tri-shaped object passed the camper not more than 100 feet behind and at an estimated 200-300 feet altitude. It was about 55 degrees up from the horizon, moving from east to west. The object's bulk subtended an arc of 20-30 degrees. Thompson estimated it to be 40-50 feet long, "like a DC-10 going over practically overhead."

A Beam of Light

It was shooting out a sharply defined beam of bright, bluish-green light which reached the ground, covering an area of 30-40 feet diameter. The cone-shaped beam was emanating from a distinct aperture in the bottom of the craft.

Thompson's sketch and verbal statement describes an object with a

central cigar-shaped "fuselage," with two "nacelles" on either side, also cigar-shaped. He saw no connecting links between the central part and the smaller complementary objects — no wings or tail. Since the vivid light beam did not light up the solid portions above it, the details of their shapes were not sharply defined. It is possible that the "craft" could have been three individual objects, remembering the three lights which had paced the T's camper for several minutes before the dramatic sweep across the highway.

After crossing the road, the object(s) abruptly disappeared by turning out the central bluish-green beam. Duration of the close-encounter phase of the sighting was about two minutes. No interference with the camper's electrical system was noticed, nor any physical effects reported by the Thompsons.

Puzzled, they continued their journey, contacting residents of the area on the camper's CB radio. None of the persons contacted had any knowledge of the mysterious craft.

By 2:00 a.m. the couple reached Roseville, some eighty miles north, and pulled off into an isolated rest stop north of town. Sometime after 2:45 a.m., Mrs. Thompson was awakened by a loud whirring-whistling noise, seemingly coming from outside. She opened the camper's roof vent, recognizing the same peculiar sound which had accompanied the object's low pass some hours earlier.

An Indistinct Shape

There was only darkness in the sky above, as seen through the vent, but Mrs. T. had an eerie impression that the object had returned and was hovering low over the camper. She roused her husband from a deep sleep, and when he realized what was happening, he hurried out the rear door. He saw an indistinct shape traveling away into the southerly sky. He also recognized the sound emanating from it as identical with the tri-shaped object with the vivid light beam. It was about one-half mile away, slowly proceeding into the distance, and the size of a quarter at arm's length. Estimated duration of this visual sighting was approximately one minute.

The Thompsons remained quiet about these odd events; upon their

return home they shared them only with Officer Maurice Allen. Due to Thompson's position as an LAPD law enforcement officer, he did not want to publicly reveal his experience. It is a tribute both to the mature public attitude toward UFOs at the present time, and to the Thompsons themselves, that this case has at last come to light.

At the time of MUFON's interview with the Thompsons, he was still on active duty instructing police recruits in the use of firearms at the L. A. Police Academy. Both witnesses were careful in their statements and entirely free from any tendency to embellish details. They have no particular interest in UFOs and have preferred over the years to think that the object was an experimental aircraft of terrestrial design. However, they state that the sound emitted was definitely not that of any ordinary aircraft. They remain puzzled to this day why an "experimental aircraft" should have been performing surveillance of this type.

A Mathematical Analysis

Following the writer's investigation of the Thompson report, Donald Weitzel, a Southern California engineer, contributed a painstaking mathematical analysis based on the distances, sizes and angles provided by the witnesses. His figures show that Mr. Thompson was more than conservative in his estimate of 40-50 feet for the object's length. Weitzel states that the object's length was on the order of 190 feet, oddly correlative of Thompson's statement that the object was "like a DC-10 going over practically overhead." The entire text of the MUFON investigation and the subsequent mathematical analysis are on file at MUFON headquarters and at SKYLOOK offices.

The growing tendency of UFOs to show themselves to law enforcement officers might well be deliberate attempts on the part of UFO entities to be viewed by responsible authorities. Concerning this, it is well to remember the case of Patrolman Herbert Schirmer of Ashland, Nebr., who experienced a strange encounter with an alien craft and its occupants on Dec. 1, 1967. The opening question fired at Schirmer by the longheaded, grayskinned entity was, "Are you the watchman over this place?"

Pennsylvania Sightings Continue

By Stan Gordon

Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research

UFO sightings since July of this year have been coming into the Pennsylvania Center on an average of two sightings per day. Sightings of Jupiter, Venus, and other natural occurrences have been responsible for many of these sightings. However, a number of unexplained aerial visitors apparently are still about.

For example during the first two weeks of July, numerous witnesses in about a five-mile radius of Latrobe observed a large metallic, cigar-shaped object hovering at tree top level. At the same time, numerous reports of metallic appearing discs, some in formation, were also being seen.

On the night of July 10, UFO sightings were reported throughout many points in the state. Near Chambersburg, a young woman reported that her vehicle was chased by a thirty-foot diameter disc for several miles, while the object remained only inches above the roof of her car. Several other witnesses in the area also reported similar sightings simultaneously.

On July 27, near Butler, a woman reported that a round similar object with red flashing lights and legs at the bottom hovered outside of her window and just seemed to float on the air.

On August 8, at approximately 4:50 p.m., a group of witnesses near Greensburg reportedly observed three flat, silver discs hover about 100 feet in altitude then ascend toward the east. A few seconds later, three more similar objects flew past them heading in the same direction.

We have received dozens of reports of bright, orange spheres making erratic movements in the night skies, and at times dropping flaming sparks. The reports do not seem to fall into the hot air balloon category, due to the unusual movements of these lights.

Cult of 'The Two' composed of five elements

Editor's Note: Dr. Downing is a Presbyterian minister and the author of the well-known book **THE BIBLE AND FLYING SAUCERS**. His academic background represents a combination of science and religion. A **SKYLOOK** staff member since 1974, he has contributed several articles and book reviews.

By Barry H. Downing

Most **Skylook** readers have probably been following the national news headlines concerning the Oregon cult whose members are waiting to be taken off to heaven, or another planet, in a UFO. (A news summary appeared in the October issue of **SKYLOOK**.) Most serious students of UFO's undoubtedly regret the existence of such groups — they just increase the ridicule that must be borne by serious UFO students.

The cult made for good news coverage because of several strange aspects. It was founded by a man and woman who never attended the promotional meetings, according to the newspaper accounts available. Eventually it was discovered that the leaders were Marshall Herff Applewhite and Bonnie Lu Trusdale Nettles.

The cult taught that eventually Jesus and his space brothers would be coming to earth in a UFO to take the "true believers" to heaven; this "second coming" of Christ happens only once every 2000 years, so that those who miss this flight are in trouble. The true believers must give up everything—family, money, jobs, sex — and concentrate on meditating. This process will bring a person's mind and body to "100% perfection."

As one disciple said, "99% perfect will not do." Those less than perfect will not make the heavenly flight. One added element of "strangeness" is the teaching that each person has a spirit or guardian angel to help him in his meditating process.

Good Newspaper Copy

All this made for good newspaper copy, together with the "disappearance" of about 30 people who joined the cult, with the possibility that they had already "gone to heaven."

It seems to me there are five major

elements which taken together have produced the Oregon UFO cult: 1) The general emotional strain of living in the 1970's, 2) Christian teaching, 3) the space age mentality and UFOs in particular, 4) influence of Eastern religions, including movements like Transcendental Meditation and 5) Spiritualism. Thus if we examine the group and divide it into these five familiar elements, we will discover "the Anatomy of a UFO Cult."

Emotional Strain

1) The emotional strain of living through this decade is evident to all. If it isn't Watergate, or the probable financial disaster of New York City, it is the Middle East. This has given many people the feeling of impending doom.

In this context there are many people willing to listen to any plan for salvation — anything to get us out of this world before it blows up. In the meantime, Marshall Herff Applewhite is going through his own emotional crisis.

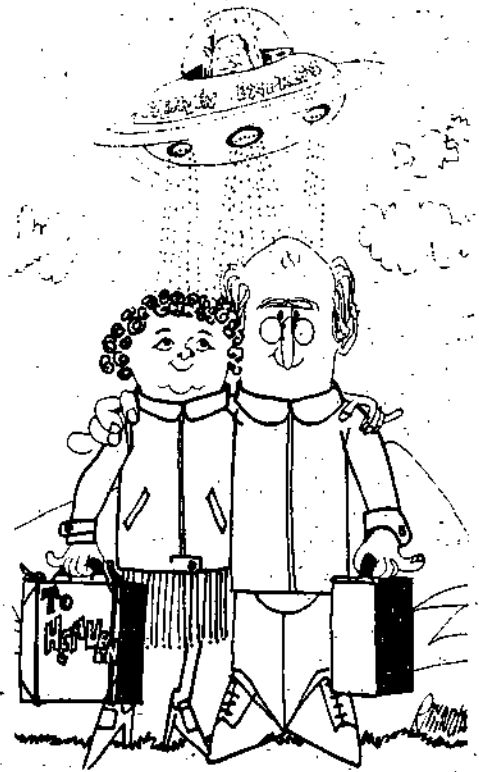
Applewhite is a Presbyterian minister's son who has a master's degree in music, and is an assistant professor of music at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. He also sings in the Houston Opera, and for all appearances, is hard driving and successful. But suddenly he is given a year's leave of absence, according to University records, because of "health problems of an emotional nature."

Applewhite goes to New York, meets a soul-mate, Bonnie Lu Trusdale Nettles, who then returns to Texas with Applewhite to open an occult study center. What are the elements of the "world view" or religion they develop?

Christian Traditions

2) It is clear from some of the teachings of the UFO Cult group that some of the Christian traditions are maintained, especially three elements.

a) The group believes in the second coming of Christ, which they have tied in with the UFO concept—UFOs providing the vehicle for Christ's second coming and return to heaven.



This idea is not so new — I suggested this in my book **The Bible and Flying Saucers** in 1968, as a possibility.

b) The second link between the UFO cult and Christianity is its obvious emphasis on faith. If you do not believe the teachings of the cult, you cannot be "saved."

Perfection As A Virtue

c) The third emphasis of the group is on perfection. This is not new to American Protestant Christianity. In the 1820s, communities and groups such as Zoar, Oneida, Amana, Shakers and Transcendentalists developed, many aiming at "perfection."

Newspapers noted that the Oregon Cult required its members to sell all they had, in order to become perfect. This was probably based on the teaching of Jesus who said to the Rich Young Ruler who asked Jesus what he must do to be perfect. Jesus said, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21).

The group emphasized the idea that believers must be perfect in order to be ready to be transformed and taken on board the UFO on the appointed day. From my personal religious point of view, it is here that I reject the teachings of the Cult.

The emphasis of the group is really

selfish — self perfection. Jesus did not teach self perfection as an end in itself. Rather he taught that love of God and love of neighbor is the way to self perfection. The emphasis of Christianity is on love, not on self perfection. Thus the Apostle Paul in his famous hymn on love said, "If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3).

I have seen little, in fact nothing, in published reports to indicate a call to go out and serve the world in this cult group. In fact, the group is mainly withdrawing from the world to try to save its own neck, as it were, and too bad about everybody else. But in any case, some of the teachings of Christianity are used, and since Applewhite is a Presbyterian minister's son, it is not surprising he uses some Christian teachings.

One thing to note about the perfectionist teaching. If something goes wrong, if the UFO does not arrive on schedule to take true believers on their heavenly ride; the leaders can say, "The reason we failed is that you did not obey us and become perfect." The Bible teaches we are saved not by our own perfection, but rather by God's grace, by the forgiveness of a loving heavenly Father. In my opinion, religion that teaches we can only be saved by our own perfection is not good news, and it is not Christianity either.

UFO Image

3) Another element of the UFO Cult obviously is that it has drawn on the UFO image as part of its plan of salvation. UFOs provide a link with the universe, something Christianity has lost in the past century. Even though Jesus said he came from heaven — from the outer Universe — the age of science found this hard to believe. If UFOs are there, we can again believe — in the name of truth and science — that heavenly beings are looking out for us.

Most scientists find that the religious aspect of the UFO problem just muddies the scientific UFO water. I can sympathize with the frustrations of men like Dr. J. Allen Hynek is trying to deal with the UFO "religious nut fringe," of which I am undoubtedly a part in the eyes of many. Dr. Edward Condon in his

Colorado Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, much to the dismay of serious UFO students, paid close attention to the "nut fringe."

Dr. Carl Sagan of Cornell University has said he believes most people are interested in UFOs to fill religious needs. There is no denying there is much truth to this view. However, it is a false logic which concludes too soon that just because people have a religious hunger that they have created UFOs, any more than we can say that people have created food because they have physical hunger. The existence of food and our need for food happen to match up. Maybe there is both a religious hunger, and a religious match up, in the UFO area.

Eastern Religions

4) A further element in the cult is the influence of Eastern religions, seen in the emphasis of the group on reincarnation, and on meditation. As most people know, there has been widespread interest in Transcendental Meditation. The group has undoubtedly drawn from this movement. Again, science has said that meditation affects the chemical makeup of the body. The Oregon Cult group teaches that through self denial and meditation the body will be transformed so that it can be taken aboard the UFO when it comes.

The group also teaches reincarnation. In fact, it is taught that if people do not get on board this "Second Coming" of Christ, they will have to

be reincarnated for another 2000 years before they get another chance to get out of this world. They teach it is 2000 years between heavenly UFO trips.

5) The final element in the teaching of the cult is spiritualism. Applewhite taught that he was in contact with spirits, in particular "Brother Francis," a monk who died in Greece in 1818. They teach that every person who joins their cult group has a guardian angel or spirit who will guide them to perfection in their meditation.

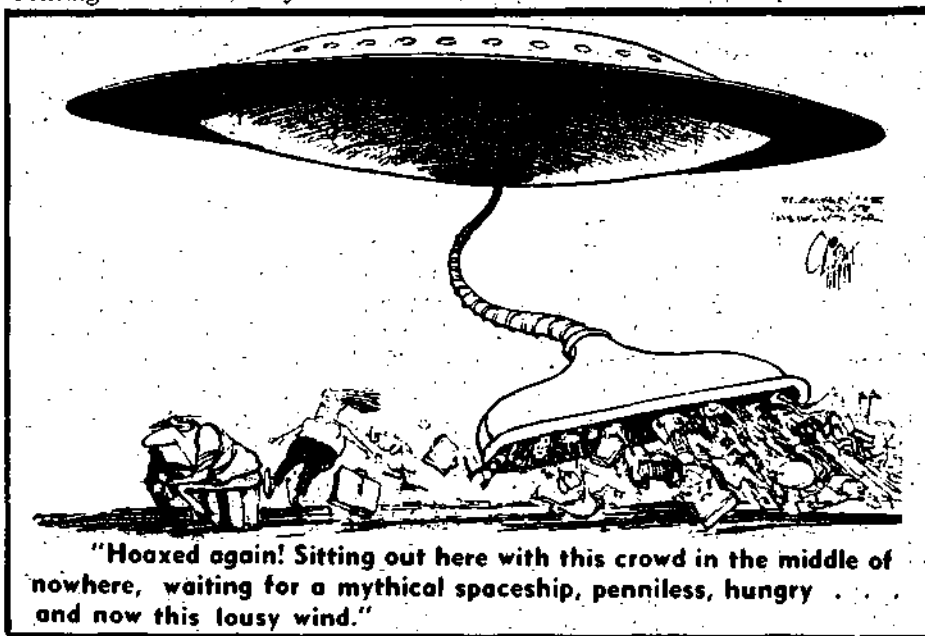
This whole process of waiting for the coming of Jesus with his UFO, perfection through self denial and meditation, is called "Human Individual Metamorphosis," or HIM. When you reach perfection, you are ready for your heavenly UFO ride.

Coffee, Tea, or Milk?

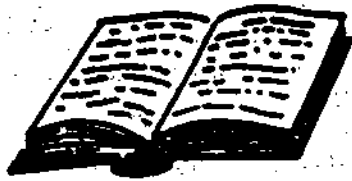
Thus, when we separate the individual parts of the Oregon UFO Cult, we discover that most of the teachings are familiar to many people in their separate forms. What is not familiar is the synthesis.

It is like being offered a glass of soft drink which is orange, Coke, and root beer combined. If we did not know what was in the glass, it would probably taste very strange. Once we know the contents, the taste is not so surprising. Still, it is not a drink most of us are likely to come to love.

Neither is the Oregon UFO Cult likely to become a favorite religious movement in the United States.



"Hoaxed again! Sitting out here with this crowd in the middle of nowhere, waiting for a mythical spaceship, penniless, hungry and now this lousy wind."



In Others' Words

By Lucius Farish

UFO information in the weekly tabloids has been at a low point in recent weeks. The Nov. 4 NATIONAL ENQUIRER reported on a February UFO sighting at an ICBM missile site in Montana. Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle's comments on the reliability and integrity of UFO witnesses were featured in the Nov. 16 issue of NATIONAL TATTLER. The Nov. 18 issue of THE STAR contained a none-too-complimentary article on the recent Fort Smith, Ark., UFO conference and the current state of UFO research.

The December issue of MALE has a rehash article on Soviet UFO interest and the January issue of the magazine has an article on the "Devil's Sea" in the Pacific Ocean.

B. Ann Slate contributes an interesting article to the December issue of SAGA. This deals with UFO and "creature" reports in/around Edwards Air Force Base in California.

At this writing, the No. 5 (January 1976) issue of OFFICIAL UFO is on the stands. As usual, it contains some good material, including articles by Joe Brill, Ray Fowler, Don Worley, Richard Hall, Don Berliner, Wendelle C. Stevens, Hayden Hewes, R. Michael Rasmussen and others.

Recent new paperbacks include Richard Winer's THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE 2 and Adi-Kent Thomas Jeffrey's THEY DARED THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE. Both titles will be reviewed in future columns.

THE UNIDENTIFIED by Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman is an intriguing book which presents the theory that UFOs and other forms of paranormal phenomena are archetypal images from humanity's collective unconscious (a la the ideas of the late Dr. Carl Jung) — a sort of planetary poltergeist activity, created and sustained by our mental imaginings. The authors have gathered their data from many sources

and the result is a well-written volume which holds the reader's interest throughout. Contactees, fairy lore, "creature" sightings, the 1896-97 airship reports — all are tied together in an attempt to show their common origin. Personally, I find the conclusions unconvincing, but one must appreciate the attempt to look at the data in a new way. I regard THE UNIDENTIFIED as required reading. It may be ordered from Warner Books — P.O. Box 690 — N.Y., N.Y. 10019. The price is \$1.50, plus 25¢ for postage.

Serge Hutin's ALIEN RACES AND FANTASTIC CIVILIZATIONS and Robert Charroux's MASTERS OF THE WORLD are very much alike in many ways. Both books contain a mixture of facts and speculations about alien colonizers in Earth's prehistory, lost continents, underground civilizations, secret societies and the usual subjects covered by the more prolific writers on the theme of "ancient astronauts." The Charroux book contains some various items of interest scattered through it, but Hutin's material consists largely of rehash from the works of other writers, including Charroux. Both books are available from Berkley Publishing Corp. — 200 Madison Ave. — N.Y., N.Y. 10016. MASTERS OF THE WORLD is \$1.50; the Hutin book is \$1.25 (plus 25¢ per book).

On the subject of "ancient astronauts," readers might like to know about some of the forthcoming books on the subject. Erich von Daniken's MIRACLES OF THE GODS is due out in paperback from Delacorte Press in February, 1976. His new movie, a sequel to "Chariots of the Gods," should be released this fall.

Josef Blumrich, the author of THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL, is working on another book which deals with the supposed relationship of certain American Indian tribes with extra-

terrestrials.

Andrew Tomas is currently working on a new book. W. Raymond Drake's GODS AND SPACEMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY is now out from Henry Regnery Co. in hardcover. His GODS AND SPACEMEN IN GREECE AND ROME will be published in England by Sphere Books (paperback) later this year and will probably be published in the U.S. by new American Library (Signet Books).

Richard E. Mooney, the author of COLONY: EARTH and GODS OF AIR AND DARKNESS is currently working on a third book. Peter Krassa's WHEN THE YELLOW GODS CAME is now set for publication by Bantam Books in April, 1976.

Erich von Daniken's IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS is now available in a Bantam paperback, but minus the color photos contained in the hardcover edition. John Wallace Spencer's first book has been revised and retitled LIMBO OF THE LOST — TODAY. This is also a Bantam paperback.

The January issue of BEYOND REALITY will be a "UFO Special," so this might contain some material of interest.

The DEVIL'S SEA by Elizabeth Nichols is, unfortunately, just one more collection of rehash in paperback form. The Bermuda Triangle, the Devil's Sea in the Pacific, UFOs, Atlantis, mysterious disappearances — you've read it all before in a dozen different places. Interviews with such people as Irene Hughes, Maxine Ashwer and the late Otto Binder provide a semi-bright spot in the book, but these are not enough to recommend it to anyone other than the Fortean bibliophile who must have everything of this sort in his collection. The book is available for \$1.25 (plus 25¢ for postage) from: Award Books — 350 Kennedy Drive — Hauppauge, NY 11788.

Soundless orange half-globe reportedly photographed in France

By Richard Hall

MUFON International Coordinator

(Report from NOSTRA, 27 aout (August?) 1975 submitted by Jean Bastide, translated by Jacques Deschenes).

A UFO chase on Aug. 22, 1974, in Andelot, department of Haute-Marne in northeast France, proved to be a terrifying experience for the witnesses.

About 11:30 on Saturday night, Dominique Samie, 18, was driving to Blancheville-Chantraines. Near a railroad crossing he suddenly saw a luminous object in the sky and stopped his car to investigate. The UFO disappeared for a moment, then appeared again only about 100 meters away.

Startled, Dominique swung his car around and returned to Andelot to get his friend, Patrick Pingat. Together they returned to the site and Patrick took two photographs of the UFO. When it seemed to approach again, they fled back to Andelot.

This time Dominique got his father, and the three returned and again saw

the UFO hovering over a viaduct. It was described as a half-globe of intensive orange color, 30 meters in diameter and totally soundless. It was now 12:30.

The UFO disappeared again, so the trio drove toward Chantraines. En route they encountered the UFO again sailing above a field. They pursued the object for two hours, ending up in Blancheville. Finally the UFO took off for good, and the witnesses caught their breath.

Then, still frightened, they fled back to Andelot without incident, belatedly realizing that one of their tires was flat.

Police were notified next day, and it was learned that there were other witnesses. It was reported that some specialists were studying the photographs.

1973—Year of the Humanoids

The Center for UFO Studies is publishing a second edition of David Webb's 1973 — YEAR OF THE HUMANOIDS. The first edition, previously available from MUFON, is now out of print.

The revised edition is to include more than a dozen new cases to bring the total to more than 50.

For price and other information write CUFOS, P.O. Box 11, Northfield, IL 60093.

AIAA papers available

Copies of the AIAA papers by Hynek, McCampbell, Vallee, Friedman, Robert M. Wood, Dr. Alvin Lawson, Niels Sorensen, and ten others are available from UFORI, POB 502, Union City, CA 94587.

The regular price is \$6.00, but SKYLOOK readers may obtain a copy of the 150-page nicely-illustrated volume for \$5.25 postpaid.

Magazine to reprint Star Map issue

Stephen Walther, publisher of ASTRONOMY magazine, has informed Stanton T. Friedman that the magazine will publish a 32-page full-color reprint of the article, "The Zeta Reticuli Incident" by Terence Dickenson.

The article, which originally appeared in the December, 1975, issue of ASTRONOMY, is an excellent and comprehensive presentation of Marjorie Fish's work on the Betty Hill star map. Included in the reprint will be all the subsequent letters, comments, and critiques which have appeared in subsequent issues.

The cost for the reprint, due out "in a month or so," is \$4.00 postpaid. It is highly recommended. Order from ASTRONOMY, Suite 204, 757 Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Send check or money order (no cash).

BOOKS FOR SALE

The following hardcover books are from Skylook's UFO library. Some are review copies no longer needed, some are duplicates, etc. Most have dust jackets (DJ) and are in good to excellent condition. Some are getting pretty hard to find. We need the space and the money, so first come first served at \$5.00 each, postpaid. Please include second choices if possible, as most of these are one of a kind. Please do not send cash.

- • • • •
- Flying Saucers—Serious Business by Frank Edward, 1966 (DJ)
- Incident at Exeter by John G. Fuller, 1966 (DJ)
- Mysteries of Time and Space by Brad Steiger, 1974 (DJ)
- They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers by Gray Barker, 1956 (DJ)
- Flying Saucers Have Landed by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, 1953 (DJ)
- Planet in Trouble—the UFO Assault on Earth by Jerome Eden, 1973 (DJ)
- The Inexplicable Sky by Arthur Constance, 1956 (DJ)
- Is Another World Watching? by Gerald Heard, 1951 (DJ)
- Aliens from Space by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, 1973 (DJ)
- Flying Saucers and Common Sense by Waveney Girvan, 1955 (no DJ)
- Aboard a Flying Saucer by Truman Bethurum, 1954 (DJ)
- Behind the Flying Saucers by Frank Scully, 1950 (cover worn, no DJ)
- Inside the Space Ships by George Adamski, 1955 (DJ)
- They Live in the Sky by Trevor James, 1958 (DJ, autographed)
- The Flying Saucer Conspiracy by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, 1955 (DJ)
- Flying Saucers Uncensored by Harold T. Wilkins, 1955 (DJ)
- Flying Saucers from Outer Space by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, 1953 (DJ)
- • • • •

SKYLOOK
26 Edgewood Drive
Quincy, Illinois 62301

Probably of Earthly origin

'Object from sky' analyzed

By John L. Warren and Joseph Accetta
Los Alamos UFO Study Group
MUFON state director for New Mexico
and MUFON state director for
Los Alamos County

A Mr. Tillapaugh reported an object which allegedly fell from the sky in the morning hours of January 12, 1975 on his farm in Schoharie County, New York near the town of Carlisle. (May, 1975, SKYLOOK, page 8.)

According to Mr. Tillapaugh, the object crashed through some trees, glanced off his tractor, bounced to the ground and landed on a patch of ice, where it produced a small cloud of steam and melted its way to the earth. The object, which weighed approximately one pound, appeared to be a piece of metal with a brownish coating.

The local sheriff was unable to identify the object and was put in contact with Mr. Ernest Jahn of NICAP, who subsequently requested help in identification from J. Alan Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies. Professor Hynek had some chemical and metallographic analysis of the object carried out by Chicago Spectro Service Laboratory and students of Professor Meshii of Northwestern University. The preliminary analysis indicated that the object contains iron, has a rust coloration, is magnetic, and has experienced extreme thermal shock.

The object found its way to Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory early in September for further analysis. The portion of the object which was received from Prof. Hynek was subjected to several tests in order to try to determine its history.

Its residual radioactivity was measured in a low background counter. It was x-rayed, to look for gross internal structures such as voids or cracks. X-ray fluorescence was used to determine some of its chemical constituents. A 4-mm section was sliced from the object parallel to face created by a section made by Northwestern investigators. This section

was subjected to metallographic examination. The section was subsequently examined using x-ray fluorescence, electron microprobe and ion probe analysis. Whereas electron microprobe is sensitive to the lighter chemical elements, the ion probe is better for determining the presence of heavier elements.

Basically, the analysis done at Los Alamos verified many of the chemical findings of Northwestern University investigators, but disagreed with some of the interpretation of their metallographic analysis. The object showed no residual radioactivity. Conspicuously absent was radiation from Mn^{54} which has a half-life of 312 days.

In 1962, Los Alamos examined a piece of a Russian space capsule which fell in Wisconsin. The presence of Mn^{54} was easily detected. From this we would have to conclude that the object has not recently been subjected to cosmic rays from outer space. It is unlikely that it is a piece of space junk.

X-ray examination showed no significant voids or cracks. X-ray fluorescence studies reveal the main constituent to be iron with varying amounts of aluminum, silicon, manganese, zinc, copper, molybdenum, bromine, tin and lead, but no nickel. The absence of nickel would tend to eliminate its origin as meteoric. The brownish coating on the outside contained large amounts of lead and sulfur, with iron manganese, zinc, copper, molybdenum and bromine also being observed. The chemical composition of the main portion of the object are consistent with known compositions of common cast iron, or so-called gray iron.

Metallographic examination also concludes that the object is basically an oxidized gray cast iron with a lead based partial surface coating. There is not evidence to conclude that the object did not originate on earth.

The extensive oxidation immediate-

ly under the surface coating suggests post heating of the iron after it was cast.

The presence of the rosette pattern of cast iron plus the fact that there is a lead-based surface coating suggests that the post heating was not extreme, in contradiction to the conclusions drawn by the Northwestern investigators. The oxidation probably occurred over a long period of time, certainly it would not have occurred as a result of falling through the earth's atmosphere from outer space.

The ion probe revealed that the bromine is probably a surface contaminant. The lead isotope ratios were measured and compared with a standard sample. The ratios are the same and once again point to an earthly origin of the object.

In conclusion, our studies lead us to believe that the object is of earthly origin and probably of human manufacture, although like the sheriff of Schoharie County, we are unable to identify its functional origin or explain why Mr. Tillapaugh observed it to fall from the sky and melt ice.

If one sets aside Mr. Tillapaugh's observations for the moment, it might be suggested that the object was part of an old manufactured piece such as a container for casting or refining lead, or a lead coated bearing surface for a moving piece of machinery. If the object had been buried in the earth some time, it might have acquired the sulfide coating to the lead, but that is not obviously true.

It should be noted that a quick check at the New York Historical Association in Cooperstown (about 50km from Carlisle) reveals no history of iron smelting in Schoharie County, but does record the establishment of a foundry in 1846 to produce plows.

The object has been returned to NICAP and a full report acknowledging the efforts will be compiled within the next month. (Submitted by Walt Andrus)

Man reports daylight disc

By Eugene T. Lundholm

September 15, 7:00-7:20 p.m.

Garner Hadland, Bayfield, WI, owner of local Cable TV station, reported that he had seen a circular UFO hovering over the hills of Bayfield in daylight.

It appeared to have no windows, looked like it was made of "cast aluminum," had a dome on the top and a hump on the bottom, size about 100 feet in diameter. It was tilted, which allowed a better view. Hadland also stated that there were "vapor trails" leading upward into the sky. It was hovering down over the trees and one side of it, the side away from the sun, was bright orange.

He went home to get his camera, but his wife and son become so excited that they hurried out forgetting the camera, for which he is still kicking himself. When they arrived at the scene the UFO had moved, but they followed it until it zoomed off.

He mentioned in his telephone conversation that one other man had observed the vapor trails in the sky but apparently did not see the object. I have asked him to check for any other observers.

He has the book, THIS BAFFLING WORLD, by John Godwin, and told me the object he saw resembled a picture on page 84, the picture in the lower photograph being observed by two people. I have asked Hadland for a written report.

Humanoid reports wanted by MUFON study group

A catalog of humanoid cases by Ted Bloecher is to be published by the Center for UFO Studies during 1976. Bloecher and David Webb are co-chairmen of MUFON's Humanoid Study Group.

Information regarding humanoid cases, especially those not previously published, should be sent to Bloecher at 317 E. 83rd St., New York, NY 10028, or to Webb at 64 Jacqueline Rd., Apt. 10, Waltham, MA 02154.

Australian UFO groups active in checking numerous reports

By Richard Hall

MUFON International Coordinator

Keith Basterfield, research officer for a group called UFO Research in South Australia, has contacted MUFON desiring to establish an exchange of information. He reports that an Australian Coordination Section (ACOS) has been set up in New South Wales, combining the efforts of various Australian groups to have liaison with Dr. Hynek's Center for UFO Studies.

MUFON has personnel in New South Wales, including Representative for Australia Michael Guider, in Queensland, and in Tasmania. Mr. Basterfield has been invited to represent us in South Australia.

A copy of Newsletter No. 12 published by UFO Research included the following reports:

Nov. 5, 1974, at Wyoming, N.S.W., Harry Pinhorn was eating his lunch outdoors at 12:15 p.m. when he noticed that all the birds had stopped whistling.

Looking up, he saw in the NE sky a silvery-gray egg-shaped object traveling east in a straight line. It stopped to the east of him for a few seconds, then rose vertically until it was lost to sight. The sighting lasted about a minute. The sky was clear, no clouds, no wind. No sound was heard and the UFO left no trail.

Dec. 13, 1974, at about 11 p.m. a woman in Ainslie, Canberra, was in her bedroom when she noticed a bright circle of white light on the bedspread. Looking out the window she saw a vivid red sphere with cones or spikes of lighter red projecting from it.

The woman went into the kitchen to inform her husband, and together they watched the object move slowly westward through an arc of about 20 degrees. Then it suddenly changed color to brilliant white and accelerated away almost instantaneously to the southeast. The night was calm and clear.

A summary of 1974 reports in Tas-

mania indicates a total of 133 reports, 37 of which were considered "Unknown." Astronomical objects, satellites, and aircraft are indicated to be the cause of most mistaken reports.

A separate report from Paul Jackson, MUFON research associate in Tasmania, included notice of an Australia-wide UFO conference held Oct. 4-6 in Terrigal, New South Wales. Participants included six UFO groups from five states, all part of the Australian Co-Ordination Section (ACOS) for the Center for UFO studies. Agenda items included investigation methods and techniques, and discussion of present and future developments.

Jackson, who is correspondence officer for the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUFOIC), enclosed a copy of their News Sheet No. 16 indicating that October 1975 is the 10th anniversary of the founding of TUFOIC.

The newsletter notes a large number of close-range sightings in recent years, including car pacings, electromagnetic effects, and landings.

On June 26, 1975, near Runnymede, a motorist noticed some lights over a roadside paddock about 7 p.m. and stopped to investigate. He saw a dark gray oval object with red flashing lights around its base an estimated 400 yards off the road and 40 feet up. When the object started to approach him, the witness drove away.

Jackson also enclosed data on 3/6/75 Mt. Gambier; S. Australia airline pilot sighting which seems to have been a satellite re-entry; Howrah movie film case of 5/12/75 in which UFO maneuvered in vicinity of a rainbow, but he says the film is of very poor quality due to faulty zoom lens; Campbelltown, Tas., 7/16/75 case in which driver of a milk tanker saw a UFO estimated to be as large as his tanker make passes over highway; what looked like door hatches and windows were clearly visible along the object.

Burned areas, imprints, etc.

Several possible traces reported in 1975

By Ted Phillips

JAN 01 1975 (0625) Quintanaortuno (Burgos, Spain). Four soldiers were driving to the Army Engineering Academy in Burgos when one of the men saw a light moving toward the ground at high speed. The four stopped the car and watched a bright yellowish object near the ground some 1200 feet away. The object appeared as a "truncated cone," 7 feet high and 11 feet long. It emitted white beams of light towards the ground. They watched the object for some time and there were other witnesses. Two parallel burned areas were found 210x42 feet and 105x42 feet, 52 feet apart. There were several holes in the burned areas. (Vicente-Jaun Ballester Olmos—Catalogue of 200 type I UFO events)

JAN 02 1975 (2330) Air Force Firing Range, Arguedas (Navarra, Spain). Members of a military patrol observed very intense lights moving slowly then stationary on the ground. After being notified, officers watched a half-sphere which ascended. The objects were seen by about 30 people for 3 or 4 minutes. Traces were found. (Vicente-Jaun Ballester Olmos-Catalogue of 200 type I events)

JAN 04 1975 Mariemont, Ohio. Two

witnesses heard weird sound outside window; one witness awakened from a deep sleep. Next morning a 10 ft. long, semi-circular track found on lawn. (Len Stringfield)

JAN 12 1975 Carlyle, New York. Object seen flying over field, fragment hit tractor. (NICAP Investigator, March and June, 1975)

FEB 10 1975 (1900) Annadale, New York. Two witnesses saw a glowing orange light 400 ft. away, shaped like a football. Thin trees broken 4 to 5 ft. above ground, bark charred and blistered, thicket tangle pushed to ground. (Staten Island Advance, 2-14-75)

MAR 03 1975 Laurieton, Australia. 12 ft. circle, shaped like a washer, grass dead. Six other circles found in area. (Laurieton Advertiser, 03-05-75)

MAR 13 1975 Mellon, Wisconsin. Object seen to land some distance away. Four imprints found. (Center for UFO Studies)

MAR 13 1975 (1300) Gilroy, California. 14-year-old Ronda Ridge saw a round silver object with a band of yellow lights approaching her home. Object stopped, hovered a few seconds and moved away. Sighting duration of 20 minutes. Area of depressed grass found. (Gilroy Dispatch, 03-21-75)

MAR 27 1975 (0054) Antioch (or Brentwood), California. Two witnesses, 14 and 16, saw an oval object which made 90-degree turns and hovered over trees. A tube emerged from the object with a nozzle at the end. An orange ball of light descended, leveled off over a field. While hovering, the object rotated and they could see three portholes. It finally flew between two pine trees to the NE. The area between the two trees was damaged and a depression 1½ feet long, several inches wide was found in the field. (Antioch Ledger, 03-29-75)

APR 06 1975 (1715) Pembroke, North Carolina. Seven witnesses saw five circular red lights descending into a field behind trees. Six burnt areas found. (Ted Phillips investigating for the Center for UFO Studies)

APR 26, 1975 (0200) Chomeday, Lavah, Que., Canada. Two young witnesses saw a bright light descending behind a school building for a few seconds. A piece of metal and a hole found. (Howard Gontounick to Len Stringfield)

MAY 01 1975 Manche, France. Not translated. (LDLN)

MAY 03 1975 (1200) Mexico City, Mexico. Pilot of light aircraft saw three metallic discs pacing aircraft. One object struck bottom of aircraft leaving dents and scratches. Confirmed by radar. (Dr. J. Allen Hynek)

MAY 10 1975 Carman, Man., Canada. "One UFO is said to have landed in a field. The Winnipeg Planetarium investigated and found radioactivity four times higher than that of the surrounding land." (Center for UFO Studies from Dan Bjarnason, CBC)

MAY 12 1975 (2330) Peesane, Sask., Canada. Two witnesses saw an object with green light for 10 to 15 minutes. It moved away to the E. Perfectly round circle found 5 ft. in diameter, ring width of 6 inches. Samples and photographs taken by RCMP. (Res Bureaux)

JUN 06 1975 (Ottawa, Ohio. Five indentations found in farm field, 2-3 inches deep. (Mutual UFO Network)

JUN 12 1975 (2200) NE West Virginia. Four witnesses saw extremely bright lights over tree tops, a red flashing light and two bright spotlights. They lost sight of the lights for a brief time, rounded a curve in the road and saw a disc 40 feet away just off the edge of the road. Base of object was dark, spotlights at top. Four imprints found 19 ft. 6 inches apart and charred grass. (Ted Phillips investigating for the Center for UFO Studies)

JUN 16 1975 (0022) Greensboro, North Carolina. Three witnesses reported a disc which descended vertically, hovered for eight minutes, moved up and down, then landed. Ascended again, moved up and down, lights went out. Depressions found in grass. (The Greensboro Record, 06-20-75)

JUL 1975 Sharon, Ont., Canada. Ring

MUFON

103 Oldtowne Rd.
Seguin, TX 78155

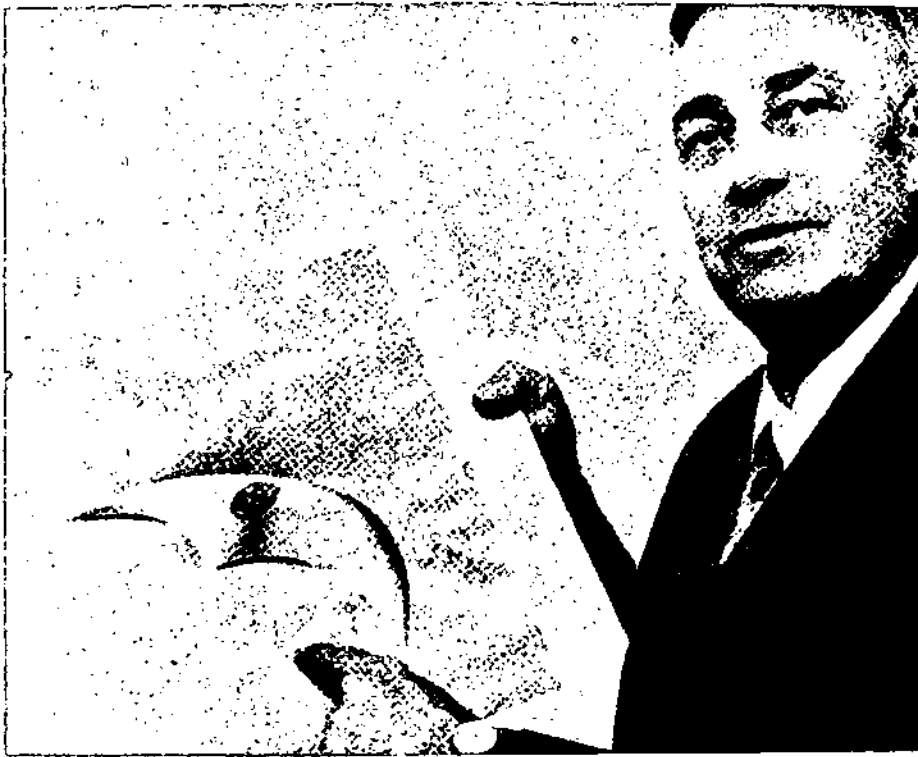
Phones:

512-379-9216

(MUFON headquarters and
Walt Andrus' home)

512-379-8850

(Director Walt Andrus'
place of employment)



Kenneth Arnold, the man most responsible for the term "flying saucers," points to a sketch of one of the nine UFOs which he reportedly observed while flying near Mt. Ranier, Washington, on June 24, 1947. He described the objects as looking "like pie plates skipping over the water." He estimated that the objects, moving in a chain-like, step-down formation about five miles long, were flying at 1,000-1,700 miles per hour, based on the time it took them to cover the 50-mile distance between two mountains. The objects flew erratically as they moved around lesser peaks. (Photo courtesy Joe Brill)

found, 19.75'x16.50'. (Center for UFO Studies)

JUL 06 1975 (1700) Mt. Pleasant, Ont., Canada. Joe Borda saw a metallic cylinder in a field some 800 ft. away. Area 50 ft. across was slightly burnt, an oily substance was found. (Ted Phillips investigating for the Center for UFO Studies)

AUG 06 1975 (2050) Rochester, Minnesota. At least two farmers saw a blazing object descend into an alfalfa field. A brown patch 15x30 ft. found. (Center for UFO Studies)

SEP 07 1975 (Cisne, Illinois. Ivan Phillips found a 6 ft. ring in his front yard. Ring width of 6 inches, surface covered with a black oily looking material, but not oily to the touch. Another ring, 30 inches in diameter found on SEP 10. (Ted Phillips investigating for the Center for UFO Studies)

SEP 10 1975 Starbuck, Minnesota. 10 ft. ring found, width of 8 inches, powdery substance on surface. Samples to Thomas Straw, University of Minnesota. (Starbuck Times, 09-17-75)

OCT 16 1975 (0000) Central Texas. Three luminous discs seen by two witnesses for 7 minutes. One or all three discs struck the ground leaving a 60 ft. long trench with charred stones. (Ted Phillips investigating for the Center for UFO Studies)

NOV 02 1975 (2130) Medford, Minnesota. Several people saw a bright orange-red light approaching the ground. Object disappeared behind buildings and trees some 300 feet away. Seen leaving the area, passing over a ridge to the NE. Light was followed by one family for about 15 minutes. Dried area 13.5x12.0 feet found. (Investigation at site by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Ted Phillips for the Center for UFO Studies)

CUFOS hotline being misused by investigators

Dr. J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) would like to remind MUFON investigators that the UFO Central telephone is not for their use. Says Hynek:

"Apparently, the use of UFO CENTRAL is not clear to some investigators. We have received calls from investigators, telling of cases in their area. Also, we have received messages from investigators. This is not the purpose of UFO CENTRAL.

"UFO CENTRAL should never be used by investigators, since we assume they are already investigating the case. It is primarily for reports which need immediate investigation, where no investigator is available or aware of the report. Since we must pay for each of these calls, and all of us in the UFO field are well aware of the lack of funds syndrome, I hope that possibly through SKYLOOK, a better understanding can be reached.

"We attempt to answer all investigators letters as soon as possible, and to reply to reports submitted. I certainly want to thank all of the MUFON people who have generously cooperated with the Center.

"So, though we hope all investigators would let their local law agencies know about UFO CENTRAL and supply them with the number, we hope it can be made clear that this number should not be used to report cases which are under investigation."

Registry hotline available

A toll-free 24-hour UFO hotline has reportedly been established by the International UFO Registry, P.O. Box 1004, Hammond, Ind. Callers may, at times, receive a tape recorded message directing them to describe their sightings for taping by the IUFOR answering device.

IUFOR North American Director William Hauak reportedly views the hotline as a supplement to the police hotline utilized by the Center for UFO Studies.



Director's Message

By Walt Andrus

1976 Symposium Speakers

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies, and Ray Stanford, director of Project Starlight International, have already been confirmed as speakers for the 1976 MUFON UFO Symposium in Ann Arbor, Mich., on June 12, 1976.

New MUFON Treasurer

With the relocation of MUFON's administrative offices to 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155, it has been deemed desirable to elect a new treasurer who was located in or near the same city for convenient financial management. At the Annual Corporate Meeting in Des Moines, Ia., on July 6, 1975, Fields F. Freeman, Quincy, Ill., was re-elected treasurer until such time as a new person could assume this post.

We are extremely proud to announce that Mr. John Donegan, 1901 Mt. Vernon, Seguin, Texas 78155, has accepted this responsibility effective prior to Jan. 1, 1976. John is president of the First National Bank of Seguin, and one of the city's leading citizens. His accomplishments and credits as a civic leader and businessman are too extensive to list in this message.

New State Section Directors

MUFON's coverage of the United States has been extended to 46 states with the appointment of Juan J. Magrans, Salem Village, 551-I, Oakdale Road, Newark, Del., 19713; telephone: (302) 366-1524 as state section director for New Castle County. Juan has a Master of Science degree and is a chemist with ICI United States, Inc. in Wilmington, Del.

Mark D. Ward, state director for Indiana, is proud to announce that the following two gentlemen have accepted positions as state section directors: Dennis W. Hauck, 114 Gostlin Street, Hammond, Ind. 46327; telephone: (219) 932-4760, for Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Dennis received his M.A. from the University of Vienna, and is director of Inter-

national UFO Registry. Charles L. Tucker, Box 228, Nappanee, Inc. 46550; telephone (517) 278-5945; has been assigned the leadership for Elkhart and Kosciusko counties. Mr. Tucker attended the recent Ft. Smith, Ark., UFO Conference hosted by Bill Pitts.

Wisconsin has shown solid growth with the following selection of state section directors by Ronald M. Anderson: Robert Gorsiski, 1123 David Street, Racine, Wis. 53404; telephone (414) 634-7085, for Racine and Kenosha counties; and Hank Kaul, 1209 Andover Avenue, Eau Claire, Wis. 54701; telephone (715) 835-4540 to cover Eau Claire, Trempealeau, Clark, and Jackson counties. Bob is a central office repairman with Wisconsin Telephone Company and amateur radio operator WA9BDX. Hank is chief engineer for Radio Station WEAQ and a ham radio operator WB9DWL.

The Lone Star State is expanding rapidly with the following state section director assignments being announced by William A. Dexter, state director for Texas: Ray Stanford, P.O. Box 5310, Austin, Tex. 78763; telephone: (512) 441-8882, has the responsibility for coordinating the MUFON activities in Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Williamson, Burnet, and Blanco counties. Ray is director of Project Starlight International, an organization devoted to the detection of UFO's and a serious attempt at communication with UFOs through instrumentation.

Ray Welhausen, P.O. Box 4, Shiner, Texas 77984; telephone: (512) 594-3875, will represent the counties of Lavaca, Gonzales and DeWitt. Ray, a merchant and banker, was recommended by Arlen R. Zander, Ph.D., consultant in Nuclear Physics and state section director. The new state section director for Bandera, Kerr, Kendall, Medina, and Real counties is Elmer J. Romigh, Jr. (USAF

colonel, retired), Route 2, Bandera, Tex. 78003. Elmer, an active amateur radio operator (WA5CTJ), has been "checking-in" on the MUFON net each Sunday at 1300 DST on 14,280 KHZ.

Jack Cortright, 3504 E. Oaklawn, P.O. 3662, Victoria, Tex. 77901; telephone: (512) 573-9971, has agreed to represent MUFON in the following Texas counties: Victoria, Calhoun, Jackson and Goliad.

New Consultant

Joining the Advisory Board of Consultants is Eugene N. Zavodny, Ph.D., 392 Herrick Road, Riverside, Ill. 60546; telephone: (312) 447-5957, as a consultant in mechanical engineering and field investigator. Gene is a senior research engineer with MGD Graphic Systems, Rockwell International.

Field Investigators Manual

In order to secure maximum effectiveness from the new "Field Investigator's Manual," all state directors are encouraged to arrange for statewide training meetings with their state section directors so as to instruct them in the techniques of investigation, communications, and teaching. Using the manual as a teaching aid and a guideline for the proper techniques in reporting and investigating UFO sightings, each of us will not only be prepared for the next "flap," but we will have enlarged our scientific knowledge of the phenomenon.

This 132-page manual, punched for three-ring binders, is readily available from MUFON for \$2.00 for members, \$3.00 to independent investigators for the Center for UFO Studies and \$4.00 to all others.

As a visual teaching aid in these recommended meetings, a set of sixteen transparencies or vu-graphs have been prepared by Ray Fowler to provide an outline of the Field Investigator's Manual. A transparency projector that will handle 8½"x11" size transparencies is required and a suitable screen. Please

Four witnesses, two incidents

Objects, light cones reported in Sweden

By Bertil Soderquist

MUFON Representative for Sweden

Observers: Mr. Paul Hellberg and his fiance Miss Elisabeth Segelstrom.

Date: 25 November, 1973.

Place: Smedjebacken, a small community about 10 km east of the town of Ludvika, in the central part of Sweden. The approximate geographical position of Smedjebacken would be longitude 16 degrees east, latitude 60 degrees, 50 minutes north.

Narrative: It was at 1:25 a.m. in the morning of Nov. 25, 1973, that Mr. H. and Miss S. happened to look out of the window. Then they saw a brilliant white-yellowish light, seemingly originating from the ground and widening upwards into conical shape, formed like a searchlight beam.

They opened the window in order to hear any engine sounds (none mentioned). They observed a dense fog, restricted to the light cone. After a few minutes, they discovered a similar light cone in bearing northwest.

Some 4-5 minutes later, a third object came (flying) straight through the fog from the west (obviously they had earlier observed two objects although none is mentioned in the report). The object decelerated, stopped seemingly in the first light cone, and again accelerated in an easterly direction.

Shortly afterwards, they saw a third light cone to the east, in shape like the two first ones. The distances between the lights were about two kilometers. After a time space of about 5 minutes, all three (objects) started to vibrate simultaneously, alight from the ground, and slowly drift east.

The fog remained awhile, and then dissolved slowly. The whole sequence

contact the International Director of MUFON to schedule this set for your meetings at no cost except for postage. A UFO slide/tape recorded lecture with 160 slides has been prepared by the MUFON/Nebraska Section, and is also available from MUFON by advanced reservation for postage costs.

of events took about 20 minutes.

The objects were round in shape and seemed to be of light-grey color. Their diameter was estimated to be 10-12 meters. No sounds could be heard. The weather was clear and fine (the witnesses mention that the stars could be seen).

There is another observation by two other witnesses that ties in with the above observation. I relate it below.

Observers: Mr. Gunnar Eriksson, and Miss Linda Skalberg.

Date: 25 November, 1973, and 24 April, 1973.

Place: Grangesberg (Grangesberg is a small mining community, located approximately 20 kilometers west and 8 kilometers south of Smedjebacken).

Narrative: The witnesses were seated at the kitchen table when through the window they noticed a brilliantly lit object. The time of observation was from 1 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

A brilliant light, greenish-blue, moved in an arc away towards the horizon. The light returned, seemed to circle, then to disappear in an easterly direction. At times, a fixed (stationary) point could be observed that seemed to be a "source" of the light. The distance to the light (object) could not be estimated.

Mr. Hellberg and Miss Segelstrom next observed something on April 24, 1974. The place of observation was the same as at the first sighting.

Narrative: They could see the objects for 15 minutes, between 4:15 a.m. and 4:35 a.m., as it passed from northeast towards southwest. It had a light, lead-grey surface, about 12 meters in diameter. The shape was disc-like. A cuplike protusion was visible on the upper surface, and a similar one below, although larger.

The object seemed to shimmer, as if it had been very hot (the word *aura* is used in the description). Estimated distance 1100 meters, estimated ground height 900 meters.

At the same time, a weather balloon was found in the vicinity. How-

ever, (the witnesses could see no connection between the balloon and their observation, since the (observed) object had a very strange shape, and in addition seemed to emit some sort of radiation.

Comment: It seems likely, that all four witnesses observed the same object on Nov. 25, 1973. The story is similar to that reported in the June 1975 issue of SKYLOOK.

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

The UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE will keep you informed of all the latest United States and World-Wide UFO activity, as it happens! Our service was started in 1969, at which time we contracted with a reputable international newspaper-clipping bureau to obtain for us, those hard to find UFO reports (i.e., little known photographic cases, close encounter and landing reports, occupant cases) and all other UFO reports, many of which are carried only in small town or foreign newspapers.

Our UFO Newsclipping Service Report, is a 20 page photo-offset, monthly publication containing the latest United States and Canadian UFO newsclippings, with our foreign section carrying the latest English, Australian, New Zealand, South African, and other foreign UFO newsclippings! We publish more UFO reports from around the globe than ANY other publication in the World! Stay informed—subscribe to the UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE!

For subscription information and sample pages from our service, write today to:

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE, Dept. S
3521 S.W. 104th
Seattle, Washington, 98146

Recapping and commenting

By Richard Hall

(This month's column is directed toward articles appearing in the October, 1975, issue of SKYLOOK).

A feature common to the Oct. 7, 1975, Ontario UFO and humanoid report, the Nov. 5 Arizona abduction case, the March 1966 "swamp gas" case, and many others that come to mind is the "irregular and crinkled" surface. Words like "waffled," "faceted," and "cross-hatched" have been used to describe textured surfaces, as opposed to the stereotyped "smooth, shiny" surface of the classic "flying saucer."

It would be a good project for someone to compile a catalogue of UFOs with textured surfaces, since this is a feature not easy to account for in terms of conventional objects, a feature that implies close-range observation (if not optical illusion), and a feature of interest aerodynamically.

My friend Ann Druffel has done a superb job of checking out and reporting a typical "light in the sky" case and of illustrating the essential weakness of such cases.

The lesson here is that unless the witnesses show evidence of having made elementary checks (lining up the object with a landmark such as a pole and timing its motion, noting whether it moves in relation to the star background, etc.), such data are totally worthless. A duration of several hours for a "UFO" sighting is almost an abso-

lute guarantee that it was a planet, bright star, or balloon.

Dwight Connelly's account of the Ft. Smith UFO conference is a good summary of "where we are" in UFO research. The question is, where are we going? I do not think cooperation between major UFO groups can, pragmatically, take the form of dividing up types of cases for "major emphasis."

However, I see no reason why there couldn't be cooperation on fundamentals. As two examples of "fundamentals," major groups ought to be able to cooperate (1) in pooling data to compile catalogues of types of UFO reports and (2) in sharing data on known phenomena and conventional events that are causing false UFO reports. Both of these

CUFOS selects 138 for tentative meeting

The Center for UFO Studies is tentatively considering the advisability of scheduling a meeting in the spring, possibly April 15, to bring together a selected group of qualified persons to look at "the state of UFO research."

A list of 138 persons invited to the meeting was circulated in late November. According to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center, it is expected that no more than one-fourth would be able to attend.

Dr. Hynek told SKYLOOK that the list represents only a portion of persons in the field who meet the criteria established for participants: "those who have seriously investigated and reported on many UFO cases in the field, and those who have written seriously on the subject . . . in an unprejudiced manner."

would be in the common interest of all concerned.

Another possible means of beginning some cooperation might be a monthly or bi-monthly scheduled exchange of basic data among CUFOS, APRO, MUFON, and NICAP. This data might include number and types of reports received, statistics on geographical distribution, and similar information.

The fact of doing this routinely, and gradually expanding the scope of the exchange, would be a nonthreatening approach to cooperation for a common cause. At a time when international cooperation seems vitally important, one would hope that we could get it together domestically.



By Mark Herbstritt

January Sky

Mercury—is an evening "star" Jan. 1-19. The rest of the month it is too close to the sun to be well seen.

Venus—is in the evening sky, rising about 3 hours before the sun at mid-month.

Mars—is in Taurus. It is well placed for evening observing and sets about 5 a.m.

Jupiter—is in Pisces. It is near the meridian at sunset and sets about midnight.

Saturn—is in Cancer. It rises about one hour after sunset. The ringed planet should be visible all night.